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SEC

SERVICE DATE - AUGUST 28, 2001

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-472 (Sub-No. 1X)

DAKOTA RAIL, INC.—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—IN McLEOD, CARVER, AND
HENNEPIN COUNTIES, MN

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Decided: August 23, 2001

In a petition filed on August 13, 2001, Dakota Rail, Inc. (Dakota Rail), requested an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903 for the abandonment of its entire 43.9-mile line between milepost 24.6, near Wayzata, MN, and milepost 68.5, at Hutchinson, MN, in McLeod, Carver, and Hennepin Counties, MN.

By motion filed August 13, 2001,¹ Dakota Rail seeks a protective order with respect to the Letter of Intent, dated August 1, 2001, entered into by its parent, Prairie Holding Corp., as seller, and MidAmerica Development & Management Corporation and ELM Investments, L.L.C. Dakota Rail states that the Letter of Intent contains proprietary commercial information that, if made public, could be competitively damaging.

Good cause exists to grant the motion for protective order. The unrestricted disclosure of confidential, proprietary, or commercially sensitive material could cause serious competitive injury. Issuance of the requested protective order will ensure that the confidential information in the Letter of Intent will be used only in connection with this proceeding and not for any other business or commercial purpose. The motion conforms with the Board's rules at 49 CFR 1104.14 governing requests for protective orders to maintain confidentiality of materials submitted to the Board. Accordingly, the motion for protective order will be granted.

It is ordered:

1. Dakota Rail's motion for protective order is granted. The Letter of Intent, submitted in STB Docket No. AB-472 (Sub-No. 1X), will be kept under seal by the Board and not placed in the public docket or otherwise disclosed to the public, unless the attached Undertaking is executed and the terms of the Protective Order are followed, or unless otherwise ordered by the Board.

¹ A proposed protective order and undertaking were included with the motion.

2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

APPENDIX

PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. For the purposes of this Protective Order, “confidential information” means the provisions of the Letter of Intent, dated August 1, 2001, between Dakota Rail Inc.’s (Dakota Rail) parent, Prairie Holding Corp., as seller, and MidAmerica Development & Management Corporation and ELM Investments, L.L.C., filed on August 13, 2001, in STB Docket No. AB-472 (Sub-No. 1X).

2. The confidential information shall be used for the purpose of this and any related Board proceedings, or any judicial review proceeding arising therefrom, and not for any other business, commercial, or other competitive purpose.

3. The confidential information shall not be disclosed in any way or to any person without the written consent of Dakota Rail or an order of the Board, except: to outside counsel or consultants of parties to these proceedings, solely for use in connection with this and any related Board proceedings, or any judicial review proceeding arising therefrom, provided that such outside counsel or consultant has been given and has read a copy of this Protective Order and agrees to be bound by its terms by signing the attached Undertaking prior to receiving access to this information.

4. Any documents containing the confidential information must be destroyed, and notices of such destruction must be served on the Board at the completion of this and any related Board proceedings, or any judicial review proceeding arising therefrom, whichever comes first.

5. If the Board retains the confidential information, it shall, in order to keep it confidential, treat the information in accordance with the procedure set forth at 49 CFR 1104.14.

6. If any party intends to use the confidential information at hearings in this proceeding or in any related Board proceedings, or in any judicial review proceeding arising therefrom, the party shall submit any documents setting forth or revealing such confidential information to the Board, or the reviewing court as appropriate, under seal, and shall accompany such submission with a written request to the Board or the court to (i) restrict attendance at the hearing during discussion of such confidential information, and (ii) restrict access to the portion of the record or briefs reflecting discussion of such confidential information in accordance with this Protective Order.

7. All parties must comply with all of the provisions stated in this Protective Order unless good cause, as determined by the Board, is shown by any party to warrant suspension of any of the provisions herein.

UNDERTAKING

I, _____, have read the Protective Order governing the production of confidential information in STB Docket No. AB-472 (Sub-No. 1X), understand the same, and agree to be bound by its terms. I agree not to use or permit the use of any data or information obtained under this Undertaking, or to use or permit the use of any techniques disclosed or information learned as a result of receiving such data or information, for any purposes other than the preparation and preservation of evidence and argument in STB Docket No. AB-472 (Sub-No. 1X) or any judicial review proceedings taken or filed in connection therewith. I further agree not to disclose any data or information obtained under this Protective Order to any person who is not also bound by the terms of the Order and has not executed an Undertaking in the form hereof.

I understand and agree that money damages would not be a sufficient remedy for breach of this Undertaking and that Dakota Rail shall be entitled to specific performance and injunctive or other equitable relief as a remedy for any such breach, and I further agree to waive any requirement for the securing or posting of any bond in connection with such remedy. Such remedy shall not be deemed to be the exclusive remedy for breach of this Undertaking but shall be in addition to all remedies available at law or equity.

DATED: _____

SIGNATURE

POSITION

AFFILIATION